

Appl. No. 09/826,241
Amendment and/or Response
Reply to Office action of 6 February 2006

Page 2 of 13**Amendments to the Claims:**

A clean version of the entire set of pending claims (including amendments to the claims, if any) is submitted herewith per 37 CFR 1.121(c)(3). This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Original) A communication system including an in-home network and a remote device;

the in-home network including a plurality of in-home devices operative to communicate using predetermined in-home protocols including an in-home application protocol; at least one of the in-home devices, being referred to as intermediate device, also being operative to communicate with the remote device using predetermined remote protocols including a remote application protocol which differs from the in-home application protocol;

- the remote device being operative to load a portable application program for controlling at least one of the in-home devices by calling an Application Program Interface (API) of the in-home application protocol; and load an API emulator operative to provide a callable interface for functions of the in-home application protocol, and to supply this API functionality by communicating with a module in the intermediate device using the remote protocols;

- the intermediate device including:

- an API operative to provide interface functionality for the functions of the in-home application protocol by controlling the intermediate device an/or communicating with other in-home device(s) according to application messages of the in-home application protocol; and

- the module for communicating between the API emulator in the remote device and the API in the intermediate device, establishing a substantially transparent communication path between the portable application program in the remote device and the API in the intermediate device.

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2. (Original) A communication system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the in-home protocols include a messaging protocol, hierarchically below the in-home application protocol, and the API emulator being operative to supply the API functionality by executing the in-home application protocol in the remote device and supplying the in-home application protocol an interface to the messaging protocol by communicating with the module in the intermediate device using the remote protocols.

3. (Previously Presented) A communication system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the in-home application protocols are Home Audio/Video interoperability (HAVi) based.

4. (Original) A communication system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the portable application program is Java based.

5. (Original) A communication system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the remote protocols are based on Internet protocols.

6. (Previously Presented) A communication system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the API emulator and the module communicate using a remote procedure calling protocol.

7. (Previously Presented) A communication system as claimed in claim 1, wherein information to be communicated between the API emulator and the module are described using a mark-up language.

8. (Original) A communication system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the remote device is operative to load the portable application program and/or API emulator from the intermediate device.

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9. (Currently Amended) A communication system as claimed in claim 8, wherein the ~~intermediate-remote~~ device is operative to load the portable application program and/or API emulator from an in-home device, other than the intermediate device, via the intermediate device.

10. (Original) A remote device for use in a communication system as claimed in claim 1, the remote device being operative to load a portable application program for controlling an in-home device by calling an Application Program Interface (API) of an in-home application protocol; and load an API emulator operative to provide a callable interface for functions of the in-home application protocol, and to supply this API functionality by communicating with a module in an intermediate device using predetermined remote protocols including a remote application protocol which differs from the in-home application protocol; the intermediate device being on an in-home network including a plurality of in-home devices operative to communicate using predetermined in-home protocols including the in-home application protocol.

11. (Original) An intermediate device for use in a communication system as claimed in claim 1, the intermediate device being on an in-home network including a plurality of in-home devices operative to communicate using predetermined in-home protocols including an in-home application protocol; the intermediate device also being operative to communicate with a remote device using predetermined remote protocols including a remote application protocol which differs from the in-home application protocol; the intermediate device including:

- an Application Program Interface (API) of the in-home application protocol operative to provide interface functionality for functions of the in-home application protocol by controlling the intermediate device an/or communicating with other in-home device(s) according to application messages of the in-home application protocol; and

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- a module for communicating between an API emulator in the remote device and the API in the intermediate device, establishing a substantially transparent communication path between a portable application program in the remote device and the API in the intermediate device, where the portable application program is operative to control at least one of the in-home devices by calling an Application Program Interface (API) of the in-home application protocol; and the API emulator is operative to provide a callable interface for functions of the in-home application protocol, and to supply this API functionality by communicating with the module in the intermediate device using the remote protocols.

12. (Original) A method of communicating in a communication system including an in-home network and a remote device; the in-home network including a plurality of in-home devices operative to communicate using predetermined in-home protocols including an in-home application protocol; at least one of the in-home devices, being referred to as intermediate device, also being operative to communicate with the remote device using predetermined remote protocols including a remote application protocol which differs from the in-home application protocol; the method including:

- in the remote device, loading and executing a portable application program for controlling at least one of the in-home devices by calling an Application Program Interface (API) of the in-home application protocol; and loading and executing an API emulator operative to provide a callable interface for functions of the in-home application protocol, and to supply this API functionality by communicating with a module in the intermediate device using the remote protocols; and
- in the intermediate device, loading and executing:
 - an API operative to provide interface functionality for the functions of the in-home application protocol by controlling the intermediate device an/or communicating with other in-home device(s) according to application messages of the in-home application protocol; and

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- the module for communicating between the API emulator in the remote device and the API in the intermediate device, establishing a substantially transparent communication path between the portable application program in the remote device and the API in the intermediate device.

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